

# Latvia

## Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .



The Latvia GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Latvia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Latvia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-9, conducted in 2002. A two-stage cluster sample

design was used to produce representative data for all of Latvia. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 81.3%, and the overall response rate was 81.3%. A total of 2150 students participated in the Latvia GYTS.

### Prevalence

79.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 86.6%, Female = 72.7%)  
 37.5% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 41.4%, Female = 33.0%)  
 34.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 38.2%, Female = 29.7%)  
 11.7% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 15.8%, Female = 7.3%)

### Knowledge and Attitudes

24.4% think boys and 17.7% think girls who smoke have more friends  
 8.2% think boys and 4.4% think girls who smoke look more attractive

### Access and Availability - Current Smokers

8.9% usually smoke at home  
 54.9% buy cigarettes in a store  
 61.8% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke

60.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence  
 72.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home  
 76.1% think smoking should be banned from public places  
 65.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them  
 63.6% have one or more parents who smoke  
 33.4% have most or all friends who smoke

### Cessation - Current Smokers

75.0% want to stop smoking  
 71.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year  
 73.2% have ever received help to stop smoking

### Media and Advertising

68.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days  
 82.1% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days  
 86.8% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days  
 33.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo  
 5.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

### School

56.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking  
 42.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke  
 47.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

### Highlights

- 38% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 34% currently smoke cigarettes; 12% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – 6 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over 7 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; over 6 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- Two-thirds of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Three-fourths of students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- 3 in 4 smokers want to quit.
- Almost 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; over 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.